

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: ) Group Art Unit: Unknown  
 )  
 HIRANO; SAIJYO ) Examiner: Unknown  
 )  
 Serial No. Continuation of )  
 parent appln. S.N. 09/959,698 )  
 )  
 Filed: Concurrently herewith )

For: **METHOD FOR STORING QUATERNARY AMMONIUM SALT**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a Rule 53(b) continuation application which claims priority from copending application Serial No. 09/959,698 wherein a response to a Final Office Action was timely filed on December 29, 2003. Accordingly, this new application is timely filed within the pendency of the application from which it claims priority.

In view of the following remarks and claim amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to allow all claims as presently claimed in this application.